9/23/69

Dear Paul and Gary,

This morning I got six N.O. papers. Because I have been uneasy about that situation I went over them all at once. Theycontinue the unease.

Thus far in the campaign, from what I've seen, Garrison has done nothing but respond, and that infrecuently, most recently by proxy. He has taken the initiative in nothing, has been forced to acknowledge serious flaws, etc.

The one thing all the opposition agrees on is that he is no good. They are all active, making many appearances (I do not know with what effect on audiences). They are all getting a good press and, naturally, he is not. But with the nature of the campaign, to say he has not gotten a good press is not to say the press is prejudiced (which it happens to be).

As I interpret what I have seen in the papers, Connick has emerged as the leading opponent. He is effective and whether or not to the point comes accross as a man who is. I interpret his statemtns as a reflection he has the most thoroughly professional help (and I assume it is Washington and his old pals in the Dept, Justice). Alcock has been speaking for Garrison lately because Jim has had a bad back (I have heard him complain of this in the past). At first JG was at home, but Friday he went to Hotel Dieu Hospital because he had not been responding to out-patient treatment. Although I heard of that back trouble, it was not until last November or December. Having it myself, I can be sympathetic to the sufferer (my bad place slipped out this morning when I bent down and has been uncomfortable since- ut I've worked all day). But I also know how easily it can be put out.

There is not an awful lot Jim can do in his campaign if he has surrendered the initiative and in the face of determined, competent oponents. Therefore, more than ever, I am apprehensive of the kind of dramatic things he has been wont to resort to when in the box. This time, unless he has it solid, if he pulls such a thing, it will not be as before, because this time he will have vocal opposition. He's been so accustomed to getting away with almost anything, I shudder to consider the potential.

Perhaps in a week-10 days we may know a little more. Bud is going there. I gave asked him to copy of get copied what testimony there is time for. I have asked for Shaneyfelt first, then the Dallas witnesses. If he can, he'll have extra copies runs through right then, because the machine there is automatic. If not, we'll still have copies for you and possibly others. I'll let you know. He'll do what he can. I'll see him after he returns, on the suit. The Archives has given him what I was promised on what has been removed from restriction. I suspect, from what he said, they did not tell all and did not do as promised. They offered to update my biblio. Bud says they gave him a handwritten list. I'll get this Wednesday. I asked him to ask his girl to make a copy for each of you so I can send it immediately. If he doesn't, I'll do it, but the way my machine is I'd prefer he do it. It will not surprise me if the lists are not consistent....I also asked him to phone Bellard, to tell him I'll be in D.C. Wednesday and would like to pick up the printouts and film if he has them ready. Nothing else new. Still no letter from U. of Texas, they promised it for two weeks ago.

Sincerely,